

Message Text

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ORIGIN HEW-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 SPM-01 COME-00 SP-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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BUCHAREST FOR SECRETARY WEINBERGER

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: CURRENT U.S. FERTILITY PATTERN

REF: NEW DELHI 11243

THE FOLLOWING CONFIRMS THAT U.S. FERTILITY HAS BEEN
BELOW REPLACEMENT FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO AND A HALF YEARS.
FERTILITY IS SAID TO BE AT REPLACEMENT WHEN THE TOTAL
FERTILITY RATE EQUALS 2100. ACCORDING TO THE U.S. VITAL
STATISTICS DATA, THE TOTAL FERTILITY RATE FELL TO 2025 IN
1972 AND TO 1900 IN 1973. THIS MEANS THAT IF WOMEN CONTINUE
TO BEAR CHILDREN AT THE AGE-SPECIFIC RATES OBSERVED IN
1973, THEY WOULD END THEIR REPRODUCTIVE CAREERS HAVING BORN
1900 CHILDREN PER 1000 WOMEN. THERE IS, OF COURSE, NO GUARANTEE
THAT WOMEN WILL CONTINUE TO BEAR CHILDREN AT THE
RATES OBSERVED IN 1973. THE TOTAL FERTILITY RATE ONLY TELLS
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THESE RATES CONTINUE. FERTILITY
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RATES BELOW REPLACEMENT DO NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT A

COUNTRY HAS ACHIEVED ZERO POPULATION GROWTH SINCE THE CURRENT
GROWTH RATE IS INFLUENCED BY THE AGE STRUCTURE OF THE
POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION. WHILE THE TOTAL FERTILITY RATE
AND CRUDE BIRTH RATE (14.9) FOR 1973 WERE THE LOWEST EVER
RECORDED FOR THE U.S., THE POPULATION GREW BY APPROXIMATELY
.7 PER CENT OR 1.5 MILLION PERSONS. KISSINGER

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